whether a function is of a political nature is to be decided by the Government.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Production of Pulses

6806. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the largest pulses growing States in the country;

(b) the percentage of pulses being grown in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh;

(c) whether any assistance is being provided to these States to further increase the production of pulses; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The largest pulses growing States in the country are Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa followed by Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Bihar.

(b) Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh contribute 12.3 and 19.6 percent respectively to pulses production.

(c) and (d). For increasing production of pulses, the Centrally Sponsored National Pulses Development Programme (NPDP) and the Central Sector Special Foodgrain Production Programme (SFPP)- Pulses are being implemented to provide input support to the farmers. Under these programmes, financial assistance is given to States on various inputs like seed production, plant protection measures, distribution of seed minikits, sprinkler sets, rhizobial cultures and farm implements and organisation of demonstrations to induce the farmers to take up cultivation of pulses with improved technology on large scale. Pulses have also been brought under the ambit of the Technology Mission in the Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation.

[*English*]

Export of Agricultural Products

6807. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the agricultural commodities along with their quantity likely to be experted during the Eighth Five Year Plan Period;

(b) the present level of production of these commodities;

(c) whether the production areas for specific crops are identified for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to increase their production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Rice, wheat, coarse grains, spices, cashewnuts, HPS groundnuts, fruits & vegetables, and cotton are likely to be exported during the Eighth Five Year Plan Period. No specific targets have been fixed for export of these items during the Eighth Plan Period. The export of rice, wheat coarse grains and cotton will however, depend on the surplus being made available after making adequate provision for meeting domestic requirements.